

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Currently Amended) A coin sorting apparatus for sorting coins of at least three denominations, comprising:

 a presorting mechanism ~~means~~ for broadly sorting the coins by size into those of at least two groups; and

 a pair of main sorting lines ~~means~~ for sorting by denomination the coins of the respective groups sorted by the presorting mechanism, ~~means~~:

the pair of main sorting lines being disposed substantially parallel to each other across the presorting mechanism.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended) The coin sorting apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the presorting mechanism ~~means~~ comprises:

 a stationary member provided with a central coin-feed opening; and

 a rotary disk supported for rotation and disposed under the stationary member closely adjacent to the lower surface of the stationary member,

 the presorting mechanism ~~means~~ being constructed such that coins fed into the coin-feed opening of the stationary member slide along the lower surface of the stationary member as the rotary disk rotates, and

 the stationary member being provided with guide structures for selectively guiding the respective groups of coins sliding along the lower surface thereof.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended) The coin sorting apparatus according to claim 1, wherein each of the main sorting lines ~~means~~ comprises:

 a linear guide passage for substantially horizontally guiding coins to be sorted, one by one;

 a conveying mechanism ~~means~~ for conveying the coins along the guide passage; and

 a plurality of sorting units each for sorting out coins of one of the denominations, arranged at intervals along the guide passage.

Claim 4 (Original) A coin receiving system for sorting coins of at least three denominations and executing a money receiving management for the coins, the coin receiving system comprising:

presorting means for broadly sorting the coins by size into those of at least two groups;

coin identifying means for identifying the coins of each of the groups formed by broadly sorting the coins by the presorting means;

rejecting means for rejecting coins that could not be identified by the coin identifying means;

main sorting means for sorting, by denomination, the coins of the respective groups identified by the coin identifying means; and

money receiving means for counting the amount of money represented by the coins identified by the coin identifying means, to receive the money.

Claim 5 (Original) The coin receiving system according to claim 4 further comprising different coin sorting means for sorting out different coins that have been identified as coins of different denominations from those of coins capable of being sorted by the main sorting means, by the coin identifying means.

Claim 6 (Original) The coin receiving system according to claim 5, wherein the coin identifying means is adapted to identify the different coins, and the money receiving means is adapted to receive the coins to be sorted by the main sorting means and the different coins to be sorted by the different coin sorting means.

Claims 7-27 (Cancel)

Claim 28 (Currently Amended) The coin sorting apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the main each of sorting lines ~~means~~ comprises:

a linear guide passage for substantially horizontally guiding coins to be sorted, one by one;

a conveying mechanism ~~means~~ for conveying the coins along the guide passage; and

a plurality of sorting units each for sorting out coins of one of the denominations, arranged at intervals along the guide passage.

Claims 29-41 (Cancel)

Claim 42 (New) A coin sorting apparatus for sorting coins of at least three denominations, comprising:

 a presorting mechanism to broadly sort coins by size into those of at least two groups; and
 a pair of main sorting lines to sort by denomination the coins of the at least two groups sorted by the presorting mechanism, the pair of main sorting lines being disposed substantially parallel to each other with the presorting mechanism disposed between the pair of main sorting lines.

Claim 43 (New) The coin sorting apparatus of claim 42, wherein the presorting mechanism comprises:

 a stationary member having a central coin-feed opening; and
 a rotary disk supported for rotation and disposed under the stationary member closely adjacent to a lower surface of the stationary member,
 the presorting mechanism being constructed such that coins fed into the coin-feed opening of the stationary member slide along the lower surface of the stationary member as the rotary disk rotates, and
 the stationary member has guide structures selectively guiding the respective groups of coins sliding along the lower surface thereof.

Claim 44 (New) The coin sorting apparatus of claim 43, wherein each of the main sorting lines comprises:

 a linear guide passage that substantially horizontally guides coins to be sorted one by one;
 a conveying mechanism conveying the coins along the guide passage; and

a plurality of sorting units that each sort out coins of one of the denominations and are arranged at intervals along the guide passage.

Claim 45 (New) The coin sorting apparatus of claim 42, wherein each of the main sorting lines comprises:

 a linear guide passage that substantially horizontally guides coins to be sorted one by one;
 a conveying mechanism conveying the coins along the guide passage; and
 a plurality of sorting units that each sort out coins of one of the denominations and are arranged at intervals along the guide passage.